

25X1A2g

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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SOURCE

The report indicates a complete reversal of Soviet economic policy towards Czechoslovakia. Since there is no other evidence of such a radical change, the report is submitted with considerable reservation.

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1. The Czech delegation which went to Moscow on 5 December took with it complete statistics on the industrial and economic situation in Czechoslovakia and the results of the Two Year Plan. The purpose was to show that the present economic course of the country is proving ruinous and that the living standard is becoming unbearable as the result of concentration on heavy industry and exclusive trade with the satellites and the USSR. When the delegation returned to Prague about the middle of December all Czech capital goods deliveries to the satellites which were still outstanding were cancelled.
2. Czechoslovakia, which has been the main heavy industrial center of the satellites, will immediately commence industrial conversion, with emphasis on light industry and consumer goods. The Czech delegation to Moscow represented Czechoslovakia as the ideal transfer point for traffic with the West and for increased trade relations with the Marshall Plan countries. 25X1:
Comment: The current preparations in New York for a Czech exposition of consumer goods of interest to North and South American buyers lend some degree of probability to the report of such a trend.)
3. According to the recently renewed trade treaty between Czechoslovakia and the USSR, the latter will pay in gold and hard currencies for approximately two billion crowns worth of exports from Czechoslovakia. 25X1A
Comment:
[REDACTED]
4. A Czech delegation to Sweden under Ministerial Counsellor Josef Janda is attempting to secure 1,300,000 tons of iron ore and large quantities ball bearings at any price and is willing to accept almost any goods in return. Negotiations broke down twice in December, but Janda is returning to Sweden to try again. 25X1X6
Comment: 25X1X6 [REDACTED] Despite the changed industrial emphasis large quantities of the above commodities are needed in light and consumer goods and for fulfillment of munitions quotas.) Document No. 6

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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CLASSIFICATION

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